

Meeting Minutes

Transit Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting

August 6th, 2025

A. Welcome

Welcome to the quarterly meeting

B. Introductions

I. Members

-Sally

-Alan (YVCOG)

II. Visitors

– Michelle

– Jordan

C. Current Transit Services

➤ Dial-A-Ride Services

- ◆ Normal operations for Yakima. Dial A Ride is for those who cannot ride the regular fixed route buses due to a disability or diagnoses. Dial A Ride only travels within the city limits of Yakima.

◆ Ridership Stats

- April 2025: 4,856	2024: 4,722
- May 2025: 4,714	2024: 4,934
- June 2025: 4,256	2024: 4,352

➤ Fixed-Route Bus Service

- ◆ Ridership Stats We are about 80% to what our numbers were before covid.

- April 2025: 60,078	2024: 60,094
- May 2025: 60,847	2024: 65,431
- June 2025: 54,177	2024: 51,101

- ◆ We are about 80% to our 2019 numbers, which is when our numbers were the highest. Transit currently has 9 routes. A few of those routes have sister routes. Transit also runs specials which

are the school specials. The school specials are to help have the buses on routes not be so packed with kids.

- ◆ Anyone that is 18 and under ride the bus for free. Adults pay a dollar to travel through Yakima.
- ◆ The Transit budget is about 12 million which includes funding the fixed route system, Dial A Ride, and the Yakima Ellensburg Commuter.
- ◆ Transit in the last year has bought new buses for fixed route. The life expectancy for those buses is 12 years. All the buses get cleaned every night. If there is ever an issue with the buses cleanliness please give us a call and we will look into it.
- ◆ Holidays Transit is closed – Labor Day (September 1st), Veterans Day (November 11th), Thanksgiving (November 27th), Christmas (December 25th)
- ◆ Halloween is also coming up, we do not take the day off but the drivers are allowed to wear costumes.
- ◆ With the Football season starting up the drivers get to wear their NFL team jerseys that they support when their team plays. Drivers do need to wear the city issued badge.
- ◆ Fair Shuttle- This year the fair shuttle will be on the weekends, when it is the busiest. It will be from the former Astria Hospital parking lot. The Target parking lot has new owners and they are not allowing us to do the fair shuttle out of that parking lot.
- ◆ We are planning for the new year to go to a bus map instead of the buses. We also have the app and you can check in real time where the buses are located. Yakimatranist.org has access to the live map of the buses.
- ◆ There are a few detours for the buses. Fruitvale has a detour and 72nd and Washington Ave has a detour. When we have detours we cannot go through privately owned parking lots and they cannot reverse at all it is in our policy that the driver cannot reverse on their own.

➤ Yakima-Ellensburg Commuter

◆ Ridership Stats

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| - April 2025: 2,836 | 2024: 2,627 |
| - May 2025: 2,508 | 2024: 2,584 |
| - June 2025: 1,323 | 2024: 786 |

◆ Seasonal run will be effective (9/23/2025-12/12/2025)

- ◆ The Commuter is contracted out service with Bellair. They are a private company and do travel to other locations other than Ellensburg, those trips are not directly linked with Yakima Transit. For traveling to any other city other than Ellensburg you would have to contact Bellair directly.

D. Open discussion

Grape vine is run through people for people and that connect with our buses and with Ben Franklin Transit.

Has there been thought about Transit extending the hours? After a certain time usually when it starts to get dark the ridership drops. Transit is running when it has the highest volume of people

Allan from YVCOG (Yakima Valley Conference of Governments)

There will be a survey that will be about safety concerns. This survey is for the public and we will have flyers out. This is for safety concerns and anywhere you feel unsafe. The survey will be electronic and on paper and will end at the end of October.

E. Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 5th, 2025